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## RECENT LEGAL LITERATURE

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PROBATE REPORTS ANNOTATED: WITH NOTES AND REFERENCES. Edited by Wm. Lawrence Clark. New York: Baker, Voorhis and Co. Vol. IX, 1905, pp. xxii, 706. Vol. X, 1906, pp. xxv, 709.

It seems unfortunate, with our law libraries, public and private, already overburdened with the purchase and maintenance of the vast and rapidly increasing volume of case law, that they should be subjected to the further burden imposed by the duplication or multiplication of reports of cases already published. And yet the very fact that the volume of existing cases is enormous and unwieldy makes the republication of those of particular significance or importance, in series devoted to special subjects, like the "Probate Reports Annotated," of very great convenience if not absolutely necessary. The present volumes edited by Mr. Wm. L. Clark, author of "Clark on Contracts" and of "Clark and Marshall on Corporations" are meritorious additions to the series named. Each volume contains upward of one hundred cases, and volume X contains in addition a large number of cases merely abstracted, deemed by the editor to be of less importance than those reported in full and yet of general application. This is a new feature in the series and one which it is proposed to continue and enlarge in future volumes. Beginning with volume IX the editor has inaugurated another new feature, i. e., the insertion of cross-references to other cases and notes appearing in the series.

The range of subjects is very wide, including many topics not treated in the ordinary text-books on wills and administration, but which are likely to arise nevertheless in the practice and study of probate law. It would seem that the editor has included practically all of the cases of real importance or significance, decided during the period covered. In fact if one were to criticise the selection of cases, it would probably be on the ground that some of the cases here published do not fall within that characterization, and that the opinions do not shed any new light upon, nor state in clearer form, doctrines, long settled and beyond the range of dispute. This is not true however of most of the cases the editor has printed.

Volume IX contains forty-five notes ranging in value from mere cross or additional references to very respectable monographs. Volume X has seventeen of such notes. The annotation has been intelligently done, and much material has been made readily accessible by the large number of cases thus cited. Among the subjects treated in the notes may be mentioned: "Rights of Children Omitted from the Will;" "Power of Probate Courts to Vacate, Alter and Amend Their Decrees and Orders;" "Undue Influence;" "Adopted Children;" "Gifts Causa Mortis;" "Extrinsic Evidence to Identify Property Devised;" "Deed or Will (?);" "Revocation by Marriage;" "Rule in Shelley's Case." The series is of undoubted value to the specialist whether in practice or in scholarship.

H. M. B.